

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-02 FAA-00 PM-04 H-02 L-03

 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 OMB-01 SAI-01

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R 271041Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4380

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

FAA BRUSSELS

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 24951

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, FR, UK, US

SUBJ: CIVAIR: RECENT CONCORDE DEVELOPMENTS

1. BELOW ARE REPORTED A FEW RECENT DEVELOPMENTS
CONCERNING CONCORDE THAT MAY BE OF INTEREST TO DEPT.

2. ACCORDING TO LES ECHOS, DURING A PRESS CONFERENCE
AT TOULOUSE AUGUST 24 STATE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION
CAVILLE IS REPORTED TO HAVE ANNOUNCED THAT FRANCE
AND UK WERE ALREADY CONSIDERING THE POSSIBLE
CONSTRUCTION OF A SECOND GENERATION CONCORDE WHICH
WOULD FLY IN 1990. THE NEW VERSION HAS BEEN UNDER
STUDY FOR THREE YEARS, HE SAID. CAVAILLE MADE THE
ABOVE REMARK DURING DISCUSSION OF THE MERCURE 200
PROJECT WHEN HE WAS ASKED HOW THE DESIGN STAFF
(BUREAU D'ETUDES) AT SNIAS WOULD BE KEPT OCCUPIED
DURING THE COMING YEARS. CAVAILLE SAID THAT OF THE
TOTAL 1,500 TECHNICIANS COMPRISING THE SNIAS DESIGN
STAFF, 1,250 TECHNICIANS WOULD BE EMPLOYED ON THE
MERCURE AND OTHER PROJECTS BY THE END OF THIS YEAR
AND THE REMAINING 250 TECHNICIANS SHOULD BE OCCUPIED
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WITH PLANS FOR THE SECOND GENERATION CONCORDE.

(COMMENT: CAVAILLE HAS OFTEN ALLUDED, BOTH PUBLICLY AND PRIVATELY, TO POSSIBLE DEVELOPMENT OF A SECOND GENERATION CONCORDE. THIS IS THE FIRST TIME HE HAS BEEN SO EXPLICIT, THOUGH HE WOULD APPEAR TO HAVE STOPPED SHORT OF STATING CATEGORICALLY THAT THE TWO COUNTRIES WERE ALREADY COMMITTED TO BUILDING A SECOND GENERATION CONCORDE. CAVAILLE MAY HAVE BEEN EXAGGERATING A BIT FOR HIS TOULOUSE AUDIENCE THE WORKLOAD THAT THE MERCURE 200 PROJECT WOULD BRING SNIAS, AND THIS COULD ALSO HAVE CARRIED OVER INTO HIS REMARKS ON CONCORDE, ESPECIALLY WHEN ONE RECALLS WHAT HE SAID ABOUT CONCORDE AT HIS PREVIOUS PRESS CONFERENCE (SEE NEXT PARA).)

3. CAVAILLE'S MENTION OF CONCORDE AT HIS AUGUST 12 PRESS CONFERENCE (WHEN HE ANNOUNCED MERCURE 200 PROJECT--PARIS 24056) CERTAINLY DID NOT PRESAGE IMMINENCE OF ANY FURTHER REVELATION THAT SECOND GENERATION CONCORDE WAS UNDER ACTIVE CONSIDERATION. REFERRING TO FIVE REMAINING CONCORDES NOW NEARING COMPLETION BUT STILL UNSOLD, CAVAILLE HAD SAID THAT GOF POSITION WAS VERY SIMPLE: CONCORDE HAD TO ASSURE ITS OWN COMMERCIAL SUCCESS. FRANCE WOULD BUILD MORE CONCORDES ONLY TO EXTENT IT COULD SELL THEM. AND MARKET FOR CONCORDE DEPENDED NOT ONLY ON LANDING RIGHTS AT NEW YORK BUT ALSO AT TOKYO AND NOVOSIBIRSK AND ALSO OVERFLIGHT RIGHTS FOR SIBERIA. HE THOUGHT THAT OUTLOOK FOR CONCORDE MIGHT IMPROVE AFTER US PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS. (COMMENT: DURING SECRETARY COLEMAN'S VISIT TO FRANCE IN JUNE, CAVAILLE TOLD HIM THAT HE OFTEN ANSWERS FRENCH DOMESTIC CRITICS, NOTABLY THE COMMUNISTS, BY STRESSING THAT SOVIET AUTHORIZATION IS ALSO ESSENTIAL TO CONCORDE'S COMMERCIAL SUCCESS AND THUS FAR SOVIET UNION HAS BEEN LESS FORTHCOMING THAN HAS THE US.)

4. AFP HAS REPORTED SECRETARY COLEMAN'S INTERVIEW WITH FRENCH RADIO ON CONCORDE END LAST WEEK AND SUBSEQUENT CLARIFICATION HE PROVIDED PRESS AUGUST 23, UNCLASSIFIED

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I.E., POSSIBILITY OF CHANGE IN NEW YORK'S ATTITUDE WOULD OCCUR BECAUSE OF EXPIRATION NYPA'S SIX MONTH WAITING PERIOD END NOVEMBER AND ONLY COINCIDENTALLY AFTER PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION. SINCE THESE STORIES WERE FILED FROM WASHINGTON WE PRESUME DEPT. ALREADY HAS FULL DETAILS.

5. AFP STORY FROM WASHINGTON ON AUGUST 24

REPORTING SECRETARY COLEMAN'S CLARIFICATION (PARA 4 ABOVE) CONCLUDED WITH MENTION THAT FAA MONITORING REPORT PUBLISHED EARLIER THIS MONTH HAD INDICATED CONCORDE HAD BEEN THREE TO FOUR TIMES NOISIER ON TAKEOFF IN JULY THAN WERE SUBSONIC AIRCRAFT. ON AUGUST 24, AIR FRANCE INFORMED FRENCH PRESS THAT

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CONTRARY TO CERTAIN INTERPRETATION GIVEN TO THE FAA DATA, EPNDB READINGS INDICATED THAT IN JULY CONCORDE HAD ONLY BEEN ONE AND A HALF TIMES NOISIER THAN A BOEING 707 ON TAKEOFFS FROM DULLES.

6. DEPT. HAS CERTAINLY SEEN WIRE SERVICE STORIES ON INTERVIEW WITH JIMMY CARTER PUBLISHED IN THIS WEEK'S L'EXPRESS IN WHICH CARTER STATED HE WAS NOT FAVORABLY DISPOSED TO CONCORDE SERVING US POINTS IN VIEW OF US DECISION TERMINATE ITS OWN SST PROGRAM. IN INTERVIEW ON FRENCH RADIO AUGUST 23, CAVAILLE SAID THAT HE DID NOT ATTACH EXAGGERATED IMPORTANCE

TO CARTER REMARKS THIS SUBJECT, WHICH WERE MADE
DURING US ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN. CAVAILLE REPEATED
THAT HE WAS CONFIDENT AND OPTIMISTIC OVER CONCORDE'S
CHANCES IN US. CARTER REMARKS HAVE NOT RECEIVED MUCH
ATTENTION IN FRENCH PRESS. LE QUOTIDIEN SAID CARTER
REMARKS CAME AS A SHOCK TO THOSE FRENCH WHO THOUGHT
CONCORDE WOULD FINALLY BE WELCOMED AT NEW YORK, WHILE
L'AUREORE FEARED THAT CONCORDE MIGHT BECOME "VICTIM
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OF THE DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATE'S CAUTIOUSNESS."
GAMMON

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Message Attributes

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